

IN RECOGNITION OF IRENE RIOS  
DE PÉREZ

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the extraordinary life of Ms. Irene Rios de Pérez, a woman who exhibited great strength and determination over the years to overcome obstacles and achieve success for herself and her family.

Born April 22, 1911 in the village of Santa Rosa, Dorado, Puerto Rico, Irene persevered to overcome the challenges of an early orphaned childhood. She later married Don Francisco Pérez Ramos, and emigrated to New York City with her husband and seven children—Patricia, Elizabeth, Iris, Manuel, Samuel, David, and Francisco.

Working to make a home for her family in New York City, Irene faced many difficulties—including those associated with discrimination, alienation, low income housing, and cultural adaptation. Yet, she never allowed her family to succumb to the challenges they encountered. While continuously caring for her family and loved ones, Irene pushed herself to attend night school and, in the late 1960's, was awarded a high school diploma for her efforts from the New York City Board of Education.

Throughout her long and full life, Irene has always had an enduring faith in God—which has enabled her to live a life that epitomizes respect for herself and others. She is also a capable singer who has used her talent to serve the spiritual needs of the close knit church community.

After 95 years, Irene represents the very best of the human spirit, and continues to exude love, warmth, optimism, compassion, and forgiveness to all those around her. She remains committed to her family—which includes 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren—friends, and community around her. Her children are fortunate enough to share many of these same qualities and interests, as evidenced in their pursuits in fields such as human services, government, trade, military services, and finance.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Irene Rios de Pérez, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize her many outstanding achievements.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
RICHARD DISTELHORST

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my friend, Richard Distelhorst, upon his induction into the Des Moines County Democrats Hall of Fame. Mr. Distelhorst's unwavering, sense of civic activism and volunteerism on behalf of vital social issues continues to make a positive difference within our democratic system of government—in Des Moines, Iowa and across the country.

Mr. Distelhorst's life is framed by family, community and service to others. His quick

wit, friendly personality and passion for social justice frames his character and inspires others. His devotion and compassion for all of humanity originates with family, where he took loving care of his wife Virginia, until her recent passing. Mr. Distelhorst continues to be a guiding source of support and wisdom for his children, grandchildren and many friends.

A political activist and staunch Democrat, Mr. Distelhorst has volunteered countless hours that focused on creating positive change across the grassroots landscape of politics, both locally in his Des Moines community and nationwide. He is a long-time member of the Des Moines County Democratic Party, having served as the treasurer and Congressional liaison. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the 2004 Kucinich for President Campaign, serving as the local chairperson. Additionally, Mr. Distelhorst has organized and led rallies for peace, and continues to educate the people of Des Moines on significant legislative issues of concern, including the Monetary Act, by writing and distributing periodic newsletters.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard Distelhorst, as we celebrate his induction into the Des Moines County Hall of Fame. Mr. Distelhorst's passionate activism, unwavering vision and expansive heart continues to raise up the community of Des Moines into the light of hope and possibility as he continues to lead, challenge and inspire us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTEN-  
NIAL OF THE CITY OF WIS-  
CONSIN DELLS, WISCONSIN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. I am indeed fortunate to represent such a great city.

The impact the city of Wisconsin Dells has had on the history of the state of Wisconsin is indescribable. Located along a breathtaking 7-mile stretch of the Wisconsin River, it has been a tourist destination for over 150 years, and has now grown to be the largest recreation center for families in the state of Wisconsin and the Midwest, hosting over 2.5 million people annually.

In 1856, when the city was not even 1 year old, an editor of a Wisconsin paper wrote, "We conclude that the wild, romantic scenery of the Dells will always make them a place of resort for seekers of pleasure." The natural beauty which originally attracted early settlers and tourists 150 years ago has still been maintained for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Since its beginning, the industrial nature and forward thinking maintained by the community have brought numerous changes and growth. The Dells are widely recognized for diverse entertainment and recreation options. With attractions such as Tommy Bartlett's water ski show, amusement parks, Duck rides on Lake Delton, the oldest family-owned photographic studio in the Nation, and two state parks, Wisconsin Dells is sure to enchant everyone who visits.

The celebration for this landmark achievement will be marked over the days of June 10 and June 11, 2006 through events such as the Taste of the Dells Festival, musical performances, and other community activities. The people of Wisconsin Dells deserve recognition for their great contributions to the state of Wisconsin, and I congratulate them on reaching this historical benchmark.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHIEF  
MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT  
VAN OSS

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the retirement of Chief Master Sergeant Robert Van Oss, who will be retiring from the United States Air Force after more than 30 years of service to his country. Chief Van Oss has led an exceptional military career specializing in healthcare. His proficiency in the medical field has proved to be an invaluable service in numerous ways during his years of service.

Robert J. Van Oss was born on June 20, 1958 in Denver, Colorado. Upon finishing high school at John S. Greenway High School in Phoenix, Arizona in 1976, he enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completion of his training as a Medical Service Specialist, he applied his skills to numerous and important tasks.

Chief Van Oss has performed a variety of assignments at bases in Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, the Philippines, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea. Recently he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he played a key role in the task of reconstructing an Iraqi healthcare system. He has also made vital contributions to the process of obtaining equipment for the purpose of medical evacuations in both the Air Force's aeromedical evacuation system and the Army medical evacuation system.

Chief Van Oss will be retiring as Chief of Medical Enlisted Issues for Air Mobility Command where he provides professional advice to the AMC Command Surgeon on issues pertaining to the 3,900 enlisted medical personnel who provide healthcare services throughout the command and at Scott Air Force Base. In addition, he is currently the AMC Aerospace Medical Service Technician Functional Manager and is responsible for technicians located at 15 bases throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating CMSgt Robert Van Oss on his long and distinguished military career and thanking him for his service in the United States Air Force and to his country.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ambassador Andrew Young, as the City Club of Cleveland honors him with the Citadel of Free Speech Award.